

Connect for Health Colorado Board Advisory Group Meeting Notes on Ideas/Things to Consider in a Public Option (May 22, 2019)

Who/Where

- Should be available to every segment – not just individual
 - SHOP not strong – should not bring that back
- Advocate to have product on Exchange
 - Help shopping experience to display all plans available
 - Maximum flexibility if offered on and off Exchange
 - People without proper documentation
- Group potentially not ready to weigh in on if should be offered through Exchange
- Private or public
 - Horse race on costs
 - Would depend on which would be able to better control cost
 - Carrier likely would not participate in a product that competes against itself

Network and Cost Considerations

- Network adequacy considerations
 - Cost control is a goal, so should not necessarily look at largest network possible
- Reimbursement rates should be considered – currently a problem because too low
 - Especially in western slope area
 - If commercial plan is based on Medicare plus, reimbursement rate can be low
- Need to show value for special fee if this is going to be the same on the Exchange for public option
 - Should not charge different fees to commercial and public
- Top three provider networks and reimbursement contracts for those could be potential model
 - Likely not disclosable
- Cost of premiums, deductibles and drug coverage & network should be considered
- Leverage APCD
- Reimbursement rates for ER docs lower in CO than other states – should consider this
 - State to state comparison may not be most accurate
- Fine line between the reimbursement rates and network adequacy
- Primary care main concern on western slope – nowhere to send someone for Medicaid because no one is accepting new Medicaid patients
- Benefits package from children's perspective – make sure robust as possible and meet the same standards as other QHP

Competition

- Increasing competition should be considered – if reimbursement rates are lower for public option than commercial, commercial not going to be able to compete
 - Cost shifting, commercial carriers having to subsidize it more
- Should discuss Increasing competition regarding carriers who will administer the program (not just providers/reimbursement rates) as well. We only have one carrier on the Marketplace for

the Western Slope right now. Very difficult to even keep one carrier there - and they control the market

- Competition
 - Increasing market competition
 - Medicare plus-like reimbursement rates

Exchange Assets

- Existing infrastructure/assets
 - C4HCO has data that can help inform this discussion
 - What types of plans people like and enroll in
 - What networks people gravitate towards
 - Worth considering using infrastructure for other goals, like expansion in later years, if using Medicaid network, does this make enrollment incentives for providers, ripple effects of using in the larger system
- What data can the Exchange provide to help inform the discussion?
 - Can we examine why people pick certain plans?
 - Data from focus groups and surveys on barriers other than costs – can we ask WA what data they used in informing their conversation?

Attachment 1 - Colorado Association of Health Underwriters Ideas/Things to Consider in a Public Option

Who/Where?

The Colorado Association of Health Underwriters (CSAHU) supports Universal Health Care for Colorado by providing increased access to affordable private-market coverage to everyone.

Network and Cost Considerations

The issue of affordability is critical for every stakeholder, including our state government. CSAHU believes any health coverage program established must be well structured, adequately funded and have long-term financial viability. Otherwise, we run the risk of creating unsustainable programs, failing to deliver on promises made to Colorado's neediest citizens while potentially bankrupting our state.

Before spending too much resources, CSAHU strongly recommends a deep dive into the numbers to see if a public option can truly lower premiums. Until the cost of care is significantly addressed and reduced it is CSAHU's opinion that a public option will not be able to lower cost of premium .

Competition

Solving these cost problems will require cooperation across many sectors of our economy. CSAHU believes we can achieve the greatest positive impact by empowering the competitive forces inherent within the private-market system.

Exchange Assets

The Colorado marketplace is well suited to partner with its private insurance carriers and the Department of Public Health to educate consumers through effective communication on preventive health care, smoking cessation, immunizations, nutrition, and other programs to help reduce the cost of care.